



SeafoodTrade Strategy - NOAA Service Account <seafoodtrade.strategy@noaa.gov>

Albacore Tuna

1 message

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To: seafoodtrade.strategy@noaa.gov

Dear Seafood Task Force,

US Pacific Albacore Troll Fishermen are in dire need of your help. We ask you to please end all trade agreements & or treaties pertaining to Albacore Tuna with China & Taiwan.

We harvest Albacore Tuna using the Trolling method of fishing. In order to be productive, our tuna stocks must be healthy & free ranging. Large scale driftnets are our biggest downfall & has diminished our fishery.

In 1991 the UN announced a ban on driftnets, but instead of eliminating them, NMFS observers were refining them to be more efficient & undetectable on the surface.

After they left the Pacific, in 1993, the US Albacore trollers began to produce across the Pacific. We were produced record landings all the way up to 2002, until the return of the driftnet fleet.

While reporting these sightings to the WCPFC in 2004, we came to find out, from the deligation of Japan & Korea that US had made a deal with China to allow this to happen. That we should talk to our own US deligation.

We talked to Mr. Bill Gibbons-fly, who was the head of the US deligation & he said "We had to give them something".

We find this very offensive! We are offended by this. We are US documented vessels & should be protected by not only the US Coast Guard, but the US Navy as well. Why did our US state department sell us out without even telling us. Mr. Bill Gibbons-fly is nothing but a lobbyist for the major canneries.

If you truly want to help our fishery & the US fishermen, you will reverse this trade agreement & change the US policy on IUU fishing. Announce to China that all vessels caught with driftnets will be sunk!

Stop China from transshipping their fish, as every year they give some kind of excuse & you go along with it.

Stop China from over running the High Seas. Show them no mercy, as they show us none.

The harvest of Albacore Tuna is for hook & line methods, not driftnets or pair trawling.

Not only do they diminish our stocks of fish, but they flood the market which in turn drops the price.

We trollers catch less & get paid less for what little we catch.

We know that NOAA, NMFS, & or the US State Department has a trade deal with China. End it!

Please do not tell us that it's all about losing face. Ban Driftnets, No Moratorium, no exceptions.

Put sanctions on China like you are supposed to long ago. We have been at war with China for years now.

It's always been a losing battle.

Please, hear our cry for help & do something about it. Make US great again & get out of bed with China!

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Please be kind and keep your replies short.